

Tridandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja
SECRETS OF GUNDICA MANDIRA MARJANA

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What is the hidden deeper meaning of Gundica-marjana, the cleaning of the Gundica Temple? Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu told some of the associates of the king, the king's guru Kasi Misra, the head pujari, and Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, "I want to do Gundica-marjanam." In previous years, the King would tell some of his servants, "Go and clean the temple." But what could they do? They could sweep, but not with love and affection.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu took the service. He first garlanded all of the Vaisnavas present, He put tilaka on them, and He gave them each one broom and one water pot. Then, headed by Sriman Mahaprabhu Himself, all the devotees went to the Gundica Temple while performing kirtanas: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare; Jaya Jagannatha Jaya Jagannatha Jaya Jagannatha Jaya Jagannatha, Jaya Baladeva Jaya Baladeva Jaya Baladeva Jaya Baladeva, Jaya Subhadra Jaya Subhadra Jaya Subhadra Jaya Subhadra. In this way they were all doing kirtana while carrying their brooms and pitchers.

All other persons looked on and wondered, "What new thing is going on? They are all totally mad. Why the brooms and jugs?" Some were laughing, and some were in wonder, and some were looking on very gravely.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His associates had gone to the temple by the medium of sankirtana. Once there, they all began to clean the temple, and with their brooms they collected many very big stones and and stone chips. What is the deeper meaning of "big stones"? Aparadha – Vaisnava-aparadha (offenses to Vaisnavas) and nama-aparadha (offenses to the holy name). When this was done Sriman Mahaprabhu threw them out of the temple – out of the "heart" temple. What did He throw out? Vaisnava-aparadha and nama-aparadha.

Don't commit these aparadhas. Be careful regarding Vaisnava-aparadha, guru-avajna (ingratitude and disrespect towards Sri Guru), sastra nindanam (blaspheming Vedic literature) and the rest of the ten kinds of offenses to the holy name. Be also careful to avoid dhama-aparadha (offence to Lord Krsna's holy abodes like Sri Vrndavana, Sri Navadvipa and Sri Jagannatha Puri); and also avoid the anarthas explained by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura his Madhurya Kadambini: svarupa-brahma, asat-trsna, hrdaya-daurbalya, aparadha, laya, viksepa, and all others.* [see endnote 1]

Srila Rupa Gosvami has written in Sri Upadesamrta,

vaco ve gam manasah krodha-ve gam
jihva-ve gam udaropastha-ve gam
etan vegan yo visaheta dhirah
sarvam apimam prthivim sa sisyat

["A sober person who can tolerate the urge to speak, the mind's demands, the actions of anger and the urges of the tongue, belly and genitals is qualified to make disciples all over the world." (Upadesamrta, sloka 1)]

atyaharah prayasas ca
prajalpo niyamagrahah
jana-sangas ca laulyam ca
sadbhir bhaktir vinasyati

["One's devotional service is spoiled when he becomes too entangled in the following six activities: (1) eating more than necessary or collecting more funds than required; (2) overendeavoring for mundane things that are very difficult to obtain; (3) talking unnecessarily about mundane subject matters; (4) Practicing the scriptural rules and regulations only for the sake of following them and not for the sake of spiritual advancement, or rejecting the rules and regulations of the scriptures and working independently or whimsically; (5) associating with worldly-minded persons who are not interested in Krsna consciousness; and (6) being greedy for mundane achievements." (Upadesamrta, sloka 2)]

Moreover,

trnad api sunicena
taror api sahisnuna
amanina manadena
kirtaniyah sada harih.

["Thinking oneself to be even lower and more worthless than insignificant grass which has been trampled beneath everyone's feet, being more tolerant than a tree, being prideless, and offering respect to all others according to their respective positions, one should continuously chant the holy name of Sri Hari." (Siksastaka, sloka 3)]

You will have to give up all bad habits, but I know that you cannot. We are very fallen. Who can follow these verses? Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Svarupa Damodara, Sri Raya Ramananda, Sri Bramananda Bharati, Sri Paramananda Puri, Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Advaita Acarya, Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi, Sri Vakresavara Pandita and others like them. They can do so.

First take shelter of your Gurudeva, and following him, take the shelter of all the pure devotees in his line – those in the guru-parampara. Call out to them, "O Svarupa Damodara, O Ramananda Raya! Please give me your shelter, I am dying." Call out in this way, while always weeping.

Sriman Mahaprabhu was acting as an acarya; He was doing the cleaning Himself and then teaching others. Some so-called guru may say, "I don't do it, but I tell my disciples, "You should chant at least 64 rounds." His disciples cannot ask him, "How many rounds do you do?" They fear, but any very bold disciple may ask, "How many rounds are you

doing? And in what mood are you doing them?" That bogus guru, that kan-guru, will not be able to reply, but a real guru can say, "Oh, I try to do 64, sometimes more than that."

In what mood will that real guru be chanting? Gopijana-vallabhaya svaha – in that mood. How can a bogus guru advise you to engage in these elevated activities of bhakti? They don't have a trace of these moods or the meaning of gopal-mantra, kama-gayatri, or even brahma-gayatri. At least he will never fall down – because he has been fallen since the beginning.

By His own behavior Srīman Mahāprabhu teaches all of us that we should especially try to give up pratistha, false pride. He Himself is Sri Kṛṣṇa and Srimati Rādhikā; yet, when a Gauḍiya bhakta was putting water on His feet and then drinking that water, He appeared displeased – though He was pleased. He told Sri Svarūpa Dāmodara, "Oh, this Gauḍiya; what is he doing? I will go to hell. In front of the temple deity – not deity, but the deity's simhasana (throne) – he is washing My feet and drinking that water. I will certainly have to go to hell."

Sri Svarūpa Dāmodara at once pushed that boy, took him out of the temple and told him, "You have done very well. But others should be careful and therefore Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu was externally angry, just to teach others. Anyway, I will ask Him to be merciful to you. Wait here and I will call you." He returned and said, "O Mahāprabhu, that person was quite ignorant and foolish. He does not know anything, so please be merciful to him."

We should not think, "I am a bona fide Vaiṣṇava. I am giving the remnants of my prasādam to all, and by my prasādam their hearts can become pure." Śrīla Bhakti-vinoda Thākura has written something about this in his song Kṛpā Koro Vaiṣṇava Thākura:

nija srestha jani ucchisthadi dane, ho'be abhimana-bhara
tai sisya tava, thakiya sarvada, na loibo puja ka'ra

By thinking that I am superior (guru-abhimana) and giving my remnants to others, I will be burdened with the weight of false pride. Let me always identify as your disciple and not accept worship or praise from others (verse 4)

Try to follow these Teachings. Try to compare yourself with Vaiṣṇavas like Śrīla Rūpa Gosvami and Śrīla Rāghunātha Gosvami, and also Śrīla Prabhupāda. Where is their bhakti and where is yours? You cannot even control your sense gratification. If a naked lady stands in your presence you cannot check your eyes and your heart. I heard from a devotee that Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Swami Maharaja told someone, "I can be there without any disturbance, but you cannot." So we should try to follow these principles given by Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

Srīman Mahāprabhu told Śrīla Jagadānanda Paṇḍita, Sri Svarūpa Dāmodara, and others who were distributing mahāprasāda after the cleaning of the Gundica Temple, because He knew the devotees liked sweets, "Give sweet preparations to all the Vaiṣṇavas, and to

Me only give laphra." Laphra means mixed boiled vegetables. Mahaprabhu Himself acted in this way, so don't think, "Good preparations should be given to me, and the other, less tasty dishes should be given to others." There are so many hidden meanings in the history of Gundica-marjana.

[*Endnote 1 – (From Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu-bindhu by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura) Anarthas are of four kinds: (1) svarupa-bhrama (illusion about spiritual identity), (2) asat-trsna (thirst for that which is unreal; that is, material enjoyment), (3) aparadha (offences) and (4) hrdaya-daurbalya (weakness of heart).

Svarupa-bhrama is of four kinds: (1) sva-tattva- or jiva-svarupa-bhrama (illusion about one's spiritual identity), (2) para-tattva-bhrama (illusion about the spiritual identity of the supreme absolute truth), (3) sadhya-sadhana-tattva-bhrama (illusion about sadhana-bhakti, the means of spiritual perfection, and sadhya, the object to be obtained by such sadhana, or in other words prema-bhakti) and (4) maya-tattva-bhrama (illusion about the Lord's external energy, maya).

Asat-trsna is of four types: (1) varieties of desires for material enjoyment in this world, (2) desires for enjoyment in the higher planetary systems of Svargaloka, (3) desires for the attainment of the eight mystic siddhis. (4) the desire for impersonal liberation.

Aparadha is of four kinds: (1) offences towards Sri Krsna, (2) offences towards krsna-nama, (3) offences towards krsna-svarupa (the deity form of the Lord) and (4) offences towards the jivas (living entities who are infinitesimal particles of spirit belonging to the Lord).

Hrdaya-daurbalya is of four kinds: (1) tuccha-asakti (attachment for useless things), (2) kuti-nati (deceitful behavior. The word kuti-nati may be broken down into the constituent parts ku, bad or evil, and na or nati, that which is forbidden. In that case it would mean doing wicked deeds or doing that which is forbidden), (3) matsarya (envy) and (4) sva-pratistha-lalasa (desire for one's own fame and prestige).

(From Madhurya Kadambini by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura) Laya means the tendency to sleep during kirtana, sravana, and smarana (japa), in order of increasing tendency. Viksepa means distraction toward mundane topics while doing devotional service (gossiping while doing japa). Apratipatti refers to the occasional inability to absorb the mind in kirtana and other services in spite of the absence of laya or viksepa. Kasaya refers to the innate tendency toward such qualities as anger, greed and pride. Rasasvada means the inability to absorb the mind in kirtana and other services if one gets the opportunity for the material sense pleasure. Nisthita-bhakti appears in the absence of these faults.

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